



SATURDAY, NOV. 20, 1909.

## They Never Come Back

Graphic Account of Conditions Confronting a Pugilist—Jeffries' Difficulties—Age and Lack of Training Against Him.

By Bill Blunt.

Even with the proposed Jeffries-Johnson bout approximately eight months distant, the question of betting on the result has already been taken up. The day the articles were signed, the Johnson side refused to make the large side bet on the ground that "Jeffries will probably be a two to one favorite, and we want ringside odds."

Coming as it did from the Johnson side, that statement was undoubtedly inspired by two motives. One was, the Johnson side didn't care to wager \$20,000, and the other was to lead the public to believe that Jeffries would be a pronounced favorite in the betting. It was a subterfuge of the most shallow kind, and anyone who falls for it deserves to be stung. To start off with, Jeffries should not be a two to one favorite under any possible conditions in the world. There is, never was, never can be, and never should be, one solitary reason why he should be such a favorite over Johnson, and here is to the hope that any person who is foolish enough to wager two to one that Jeffries wins, may lose his money. Every dollar he bets, he deserves it.

Why should Jeff be such a ridiculous favorite? Six years ago he has elapsed since he engaged in a ring battle. Such a period of good-natured idleness does not improve man's wind vitality and general physical condition. Everybody knows that in his prime Jeff was unbeatable. Many believe he was the greatest fighter in ring history. He met and beat them all, some twice—Tom Sharkey, Bob Fitzsimmons, Jim Corbett, Joe Goddard, Peter Jackson, Gus Ruhlin and Jack Monroe. But the question that troubles his friends is "How good is Jeff to-day?"

### TOO EARLY TO WAGER ON FIGHT NOW.

While the preliminary training he has indulged in the past few months may have encouraged him and his manager, Sam Berger, to believe he could "come back," it is entirely too early to tell much about it. Remember that, as a rule, they don't "come back" after a long period of idleness, and many a star has tried it. Get this advice. Don't bet a dollar on the bout either way at this early date. No matter what price is quoted the odds will be fictitious. It will be impossible to quote a sane price either way until it is known how good Jeffries can get. This cannot be found out until he has been in training several weeks. Then it will be time enough to lay your wagers. The bout is a long way off.

There is no question but that Johnson really believes he can defeat Jeffries. Perhaps his confidence was shaken considerably the day the articles were signed by Jeff's fine physical appearance, his demand for the enormous side bet, and his suggestion that "all go to the winner." The latter proposition was unlooked for, and couldn't possibly have given the Johnson side any additional confidence. It really was the big note of the meeting and was a source of much gratification to Jeffries' admirers. He wouldn't have asked for the "winner take all" clause unless he and Berger felt confident he could get into good enough shape to trim Johnson. Jeff's physical fitness is the principal condition on which the result of the battle will hinge. While he has overrated himself the fate remains, that after trying himself out as far as circumstances would permit, Jeff was satisfied to wager a small fortune on the outcome of the bout and let the entire purse go to the victor. That was a world of encouragement to his friends.

### NEGRO'S CHANCES FOR VICTORY BRIGHT.

As the cards lay today, Johnson's chances for victory seem the better. It is up to Jeffries to change the aspect of things. Perhaps he will do this after he has been in training a while, but the fact remains that it is up to him to do it. The burden of proof lies on his shoulders.

Again, he may have an ace in the hole as regards his condition. It may be that he has tried himself out more thoroughly than any one imagines and has successfully withstood to strenuous test. That would be in his favor. When he was fighting, he proved himself the wonder of the age. They all looked pretty much alike to him. No matter whether it was the ruggedness of Sharkey, the marvelous hitting power of Fitzsimmons or the elusive, tantalizing cleverness of Corbett, the result was the same; a victory for Jeff. Having been a wonder in the fighting line, perhaps he can repeat and, by reversing every known theory of the prize-ring, return after a six-year lay off, take up his work where he left off and regain the championship mantle which he voluntarily cast aside. But there are many angles to the proposition

and it may pay to make haste slowly, before betting.

### JEFF SHOULD IMPROVE WITH TRAINING.

When the suggestion is made that it would be better to hold off a while before laying any wagers, it is not meant to imply that Jeffries has a poor chance for victory. It may be that his chances will seem excellent after he has been in training several weeks. But wait and see. There is no urgent reason for being in such a hurry. A bet laid in four or six months from now will look as good as one laid today, perhaps better. So much depends upon Jeff's condition that it is like buying a cat in a bag to put up money now. There may be a few sentiment bets made, but the closer students of the game will prefer to hold off, and therein they will show their wisdom. Keep your money in your pocket for the time being. Later, if a bet on Jeff looks good to you, unbackle and make your wager. But under no condition give two to one. They are false odds and the known form of Johnson and the unknown form of Jeffries do not warrant the price. Public sentiment is with Jeff but, based on sentiment don't look good to the wise bettor, and they shouldn't.

By Igoo.

"Golly, I hope Jeff can get into shape to whip Johnson." That's the way Jack McCalliffe, retired light weight champion, feels about the coming battle between the great heavyweights. Jack said more, "People don't dream of the way Jeff will have to undergo to prepare himself for this fight with Johnson. The battle itself is child's play. It's the training that proves whether a man has the heart or not. But Jeff should fight every man who is willing to meet him before taking on Johnson. I never saw the black fellow in an actual fight, but I did see the Ketchel-Johnson pictures, and let me tell you, that Johnson has everything."

"Jeff is doing a far greater thing than people are giving him credit for when he signifies a willingness to fight Johnson. He is a perfect fool if he attempts to fight Johnson without first meeting all the men he can before going into the ring with the negro. It would break his heart to lose to Johnson. It is terrible to lose when you are an undefeated champion. It broke John L. Sullivan's heart. It broke Jack Dempsey's heart, and it broke Charlie Mitchell's heart."

### LACKED OLD JUDGMENT.

"They all tried to come back after a layoff and failed. They lost because they didn't discover until they got into an actual fight that they hadn't the old judgment of distance and pace. It is terrible to get into the ring and suddenly come to realize that you've gone—that judgment of distance and pace are no longer any part of your art. Do you know that it was for this very reason I retired as undefeated lightweight champion of the world? It happened in a funny way. I was in Seattle boxing a fellow named Welsh. He was the boxing instructor of the Seattle Athletic Club. We fought six rounds. I had been having a good time for a couple of years and hadn't been working at my trade for many moons. I got into the ring with this fellow and we started out."

"I was as fast as any of them in my day, and I went at him with all my old vim. I thought it was the old vim. I tried to get the old pace. Legs got bad. Felt like they were made of lead. Then I missed a punch after punch. I knew what I should have done and where the blow should have landed, but I missed everything. I tell you it was a surprise to find that I wasn't there, and wouldn't be again in a hurry. I walked about the ring and bluffed my way through."

### KNEW HE WAS THROUGH.

"I feinted the fellow and made no attempt to hit him, because I knew I'd miss him. I got down out of that ring determined never to fight again, and I didn't. That's why they call me the old light heavyweight champion of the world. I was whipped. Jeff will find himself at sea when he gets into the ring with Johnson, and he'll be diving over his head from misses. Jeff can't get back the distance or the pace unless he engages in actual conflict."

"Boxing with a gym partner won't bring it back. He has to go into a real fight. Let him take Kaufman or O'Brien for six rounds. Suppose they did stay with him or even outpoint him. It isn't a finish and he will have recovered some of his distance and pace. If he gets into the ring without fighting some one else first, he will realize his mistake after he has missed two or three punches aimed at Jim Corbett's jaw in the fatal fight at New Orleans. I didn't look at the fight much in the first three rounds. I had \$18,000 bet on John, and it looked so soft that I felt for poor young Jim."

"Sullivan missed and missed and rushed and rushed. He was setting his old pace without having the old speed to carry him through. I was fanning him in the corner at the end of the third round and the towel happened to flap against his legs. It drew his attention to them. 'Jack they're gone,' he whispered. I rubbed them, but it didn't do any good. He could hardly drag them after him, and between that and the misses. It was only a question of time before he would collapse."

shouting good will. "Will I ever forget how they treated John L. After Corbett beat him? The day before the fight they had to call out the reserves to clear a way for John and myself. We were staying at an athletic club, and the streets were black with a solid mob of people all anxious to see the mighty John L. The next day when he walked into the same street with our heads down you could have shot a twelve-inch gun down the thoroughfare and not hit a single person. Oh, you have to be right to fight. A man would be considered crazy who would take a blooded horse out of racing for a long period and then enter him with horses of equal class a few years later without first putting a race under his belt. That's what Jeff will have to have. He'll have to have a race under his belt. Look at Charlie Mitchell. He was one of the cleverest boxers in the world in his day, and he could shoot over a punch with the accuracy of a rifle bullet. He came back after a long vacation and tried to match skill with Jim Corbett. Why he simply missed Corbett a mile every time he tried to punch. He had lost distance and pace. "It's a horrible feeling to go in a champion and lead a good punch at the other fellow, and find him not there when the blow is spent. Jeff will be so anxious to get Johnson that he will make an awful mess of things unless he is primed and he can't be unless he does as I have suggested. Jeff has youth. He's a young man. Jim Mac, the best boxer the world ever produced, wasn't a champion until he was forty."

### DESPAIR FOLLOWS DEFEAT.

It would be awful for Jeff to lose. No one can realize the agony John L. and Jack Dempsey suffered after defeat. Sullivan's was the most pitiful of all. He didn't cry, but just sat and stared at the floor of his room for hours. The humiliation was awful. Sullivan seemed to think the whole world was pointing its finger at him. I didn't dare read him a telegram some railroad section boss sent him, and which arrived the next morning. It read: "Wanted, a big Irishman to walk the lines at a dollar a day. John Lawrence, Sullivan please write." "I didn't dare show it to him, and he'll never know it came until he reads it in your paper. That's the way, though. They can't feel for a loser, and that's why Jeff shouldn't take a chance without he's recovered his distance and pace. He can't get them back unless he goes out and fights a lot of fellows."

### That Little Word "If" In The Way.

By W. R. Frisbie, M. D.

If dropping a letter makes words so much better (As spelling reformers insist). Would they think it absurd to drop out a whole word. A word we would gladly see missed? I feel just like telling these meddlers in spelling.

Drop one vicious word from the list. That little word "If," that trouble-some "If."

That word very much in our way; That vicious word "If," that stubborn word "If."

Please take little "If" out the way! If debts were less pressing, if pain less distressing (That little word "If" in the way). If poor were all wealthy, if sick were all healthy (That little word "If" in the way). No need then to borrow, and less cause for sorrow. That little word "If" out the way. That little word "If," that trouble-some "If."

That word very much in our way; That vicious word "If," that stubborn word "If."

Please take little "If" out the way! If men were all honest, if each got his due (That little word "If" in the way). If wives were less jealous, if friends were all true (That little word "If" in the way). If kind and forgiving, what comfort in living. That little word "If" out the way.

That little word "If," that trouble-some "If." That word very much in our way; That vicious word "If," that stubborn word "If."

Please take little "If" out the way! If work were less hurry, if life had less worry (That little word "If" in the way). If the bad were all good, if all did as they should (That little word "If" in the way). We'd all live in clover, and trouble be over. That vicious word "If" out the way. That little word "If," that trouble-some "If."

That word very much in our way; That vicious word "If," that stubborn word "If."

I fear it is with us to stay! —Washington Post.

### \$100.00 Endowment Paid.

Roanoke, Va., Nov. 9, 1909.

This is to certify that I have received from John Mitchell, of Grand County, Virginia, Order of Calanthe (\$100.00) One Hundred Dollars in payment of the death claim of Sister Caroline Jamison, who was a member of Lexington Court, No. 107, of Lexington, Va.

Signed: L. L. DOWNING, Administrator.

Witness: J. Sterlingcoop, M. D.

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## BROKEN RULES CAUSED DISASTER

Recklessness of Men Responsible For Mine Horror.

### FIRE BREAKS CUT AFRESH

Smoke and Flames Drove Rescuers From Death Shaft at Cherry, Ill. Now Certain All Entombed Men Are Dead—1000 Orphans and 200 Widows to Mourn.

The three hundred or more miners who were entombed in the St. Paul coal mine at Cherry, Ill., by last Saturday's fire and explosion, are dead, and it is now believed the disaster was entirely due to their reckless disregard of the mining laws and the mine's rules. Some of the bodies lie buried beneath thousands of tons of earth which caved in upon them. It is doubtful whether many of the bodies can ever be recovered.

The inquest is expected to show evidence of disregard of orders by the miners. The state officers are taking a deep interest in the inquest, but their guarded statements make it apparent that they do not expect a decision that will blame any particular person for the fire.

Fans employed in an effort to carry oxygen and life down to the imprisoned men served only to enliven some embers which sprang into flames. Soon the heat and smoke became so dense that it was necessary again to seal the mouth of the hoisting shaft, and the men down there, in whatever their condition, are locked in as effectively as in a dungeon.

Attempts to take out the bodies depends on the condition of the internal fire. It is possible that carbonic acid gas will be forced to the bottom of the mine to choke off the flames.

It is now believed that no one will be brought out of the mine alive.

The catastrophe, one of the worst in the history of the coal industry in America, came with the suddenness and fury of a hurricane blast, and its fearful work was as quickly done.

Shortly after the explosion occurred twelve bodies were taken out. Six of these were heroes not employed in the mine, who gave their lives in a futile effort to save the imprisoned mine workers.

When these devoted men had given up their lives it was realized that there was no more hope of rescue, and though there waited many who were ready to make the hopeless attempt to save their imprisoned comrades, they were restrained and, four hours after the explosion occurred, the entrance of the mine was sealed in the hope of checking the flames.

As a result of the disaster there are in this town of only a few thousand inhabitants at least 1000 orphans and 200 widows. These are the figures of Duncan McDonald, president of district No. 12, United Mine Workers of America, who instituted a roll call of the families of the entombed miners.

The Knights of Pythias lodge, the most important organization in town, had a membership of seventy-six last week. Today there are only six members; the rest are in the ill-fated mine.

Grange Raps Central Bank. The National Grange, now in session at Des Moines, Ia., representing a million farmers, went on record as being opposed to the Aldrich central bank scheme. The western representatives at the grange meeting were particularly vigorous in their denunciation of Aldrich and his plan.

In his annual address at the opening of the forty-third session of the National Grange, National Master Bachelder denounced the Aldrich proposition.

"The question of amending our national banking laws so as to provide a currency system that will prove more elastic in times of financial stringency, will come up in congress in the near future," said he. "Among other plans suggested as remedies for the present admittedly unsatisfactory conditions, is that of the creation of a great central bank, which will be urged by the financial and speculative interests located in New York city and known commonly as 'Wall street.'"

"So far as this plan has been outlined by its advocates, its inevitable tendency would be to create a gigantic banking monopoly and to place the thousands of small country banks at the mercy of the great financial interests. As the grange has always denounced monopolies in any form, it is advisable that appropriate action be taken to express our opposition to any changes in our currency or banking laws that would give one bank or combination of banks advantage over all the others of the country."

These recommendations were embodied in a resolution, which was unanimously adopted.

Bandit Slays Bank Cashier. In an attempt at bank robbery, a young man, partially identified as Arthur Hall of Louisville, a dealer in second-hand furniture, entered the Merchants' National bank at New Albany, Ind., and killed J. Hangary Fawcett, cashier of the bank, seriously wounded John K. Woodward, president of the bank, and wounded James R. Tucker, a colored chauffeur, probably fatally. The bandit ran to the river, seized a skiff and started for the Louisville side.

Capturing their man, they brought him to shore where by a ruse Police Captain Adams kept back the crowd of 200 persons which crowded around the dock as the police boat landed. Commanding the prisoner to lie down, Captain Adams announced to the crowd that the man had taken poison and was dead, meanwhile carrying him to the patrol wagon and giving

one word to drive ahead. The bandit was taken to the New Albany jail. A few moments later he was removed in an automobile to the Southern Indiana reformatory at Jeffersonville to escape the mob which, realizing that it had been tricked, had assembled around the jail.

Boy Bandit Robs Same Bank Twice. Earl Bullock, the nineteen-year-old bandit, who robbed the State Bank of Eudora, Kan., on Oct. 11, returned with a companion, held up the cashier and robbed the bank again.

While the robbers were at work Fred Starr, assistant cashier of the Kaw Valley State bank, of Eudora, entered the Eudora State bank with the day's clearing. The robbers shot him through the jaw.

Grabbing all the money they could reach, the robbers ran out the back door.

A posse was at once formed. The robbers fled to the hills west of the town. The posse surrounded them there. A fight took place in the hills between the posse and the robbers. After a few shots had been fired Bullock fell with a ball through his head. The bullet is supposed to have been fired by his own hand. His companion surrendered. The robbers got about \$1000. It is believed that Starr, the wounded cashier, will recover.

Kill and Burn Slayer of Girl. Will James, the negro suspected of being the murderer of Miss Annie Pelley, was killed at Cairo, Ill., by a mob. James was strung up to the public arch, the rope broke and at least 500 shots were poured into his body. He made a partial confession and implicated another negro, Arthur Alexander, for whom the mob is now searching.

The negro was lynched in the most prominent square of the city. Women present were the first to pull the rope. When it broke the frenzy of the mob was uncontrollable, and they fired volley after volley into James' body, shooting him to pieces.

The mob then dragged the dead negro to the scene of the crime, a mile distant from the arch at Twenty-sixth and Elk streets, made a huge bonfire and, throwing the bullet-riddled body on top, the torch was applied, and the crowd stood by and with cries and pistol shots added their chorus to the crackling of the flames.

Another Football Victim. Archer Christian, eighteen years of age, left halfback of the University of Virginia football team, died in Washington following an operation for concussion of the brain. Christian was injured in the game with the Georgetown university on Saturday and was taken to Georgetown University hospital, where the operation was performed.

Diagnosis at the hospital showed concussion of the brain and the physicians operated almost immediately in hope of saving the life of the player, but their efforts were unavailing.

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